

supposed to do, increase the number of nonadministrative street cops to protect our communities.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for the outstanding job she has done in the short time she has been here on this committee, and I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM). Without him this would not happen. I appreciate the fact he was able to allow it to get on the appropriation process and hopefully now we can avoid all of that.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Needless to say this is a right direction bill. This is frankly a bill that answers the concerns of our local communities. They want police where they need to be, out enforcing the law.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida as well for working with my good friend from Ohio and his leadership for doing what most police would applaud and, that is, let them work with the people, enforce the laws and fight crimes.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and say congratulations for this legislation.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I again want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for his work putting this bill together. He, as he said, has put this on appropriations bills for a number of years. We are finally going to get it passed.

Madam Speaker, in closing, tonight is the last night and this is the last bill that Aerin Bryant who is a staff member on the Crime Subcommittee of Judiciary will be employed and bringing a bill out here. She is expecting her first child next month and she will be leaving our employ but not our hearts. We are with you, Aerin. We look forward to it. I want to thank her for many hours and many days and now several years of service to this Congress, to the Subcommittee on Crime and to the Committee on the Judiciary. I thank you particularly for being here tonight. You are deserving of that compliment. We certainly wish you fair seas ahead.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 804.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 1998

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4293) to establish a

cultural and training program for disadvantaged individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4293

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall establish a program to allow young people from disadvantaged areas of designated counties suffering from sectarian violence and high structural unemployment to enter the United States for the purpose of developing job skills and conflict resolution abilities in a diverse, cooperative, peaceful, and prosperous environment, so that those young people can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and the Irish peace process. The program shall promote cross-community and cross-border initiatives to build grassroots support for long-term peaceful coexistence. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall cooperate with nongovernmental organizations to assist those admitted to participate fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the United States.

(2) SCOPE AND DURATION OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The program under paragraph (1) shall provide for the admission of not more than 4,000 aliens under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (including spouses and minor children) in each of 3 consecutive program years.

(B) OFFSET IN NUMBER OF H-2B NON-IMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS ALLOWED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each alien so admitted in a fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified under section 214(g)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall be reduced by 1 for that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) RECORDS AND REPORT.—The Immigration and Naturalization Service shall maintain records of the nonimmigrant status and place of residence of each alien admitted under the program. Not later than 120 days after the end of the third program year and for the 3 subsequent years, the Immigration and Naturalization Service shall compile and submit to the Congress a report on the number of aliens admitted with nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii) who have overstayed their visas.

(4) DESIGNATED COUNTIES DEFINED.—For the purposes of this Act, the term "designated counties" means the six counties of Northern Ireland and the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland.

(b) TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by inserting "(i)" after "(Q)"; and

(B) by inserting after the semicolon at the end the following: "or (ii) (I) an alien 35 years of age or younger having a residence in Northern Ireland, or the counties of Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, and Donegal within the Republic of Ireland, which the alien has no intention of abandoning who is coming temporarily (for a period not to exceed 36 months) to the United States as a participant in a cultural and training pro-

gram approved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General under section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 for the purpose of providing practical training, employment, and the experience of coexistence and conflict resolution in a diverse society, and (II) the alien spouse and minor children of any such alien if accompanying the alien or following to join the alien;"

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection are authorized to be available until expended.

(d) SUNSET.—

(1) Effective October 1, 2005, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 is repealed.

(2) Effective October 1, 2005, section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by striking "or" at the end of clause (i);

(B) by striking "(i)" after "(Q)"; and

(C) by striking clause (ii).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4293, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, provides for a new nonimmigrant visa program to assist the Irish peace process.

The author of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has tirelessly supported the Irish peace process. In support of the peace process, he has worked with numerous international organizations and visited Northern Ireland three times in the last year. H.R. 4293 is the result of his dedication on behalf of a cause in which he strongly believes. He is to be commended for his diligence and hard work in generating broad bipartisan support for H.R. 4293 and moving it to the House floor.

The bill sets up a 3-year program with 4,000 visas available each year. The visas are reserved for qualified applicants age 35 or under and their spouses and children. The visas are good for 3 years, and the bill requires the INS to monitor and report on any visa overstays so that the purpose of the program is met and the integrity of the United States' immigration system is maintained.

Finally, the new visas are offset against the available number of low-

skilled employment visas from another nonimmigrant category, so that the overall number of available visas remains constant.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4293.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to support H.R. 4293, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998. It creates a new temporary visa program for citizens from war-torn Northern Ireland and border counties of the Republic of Ireland. Might I say on a personal note to just congratulate so many of my colleagues that have been so energized and involved in this very important peace process. Just by a small measure as I note the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) on the floor, I was very honored to have been able to travel with him to see this issue firsthand and to be able to provide support to my colleagues who were intimately involved in working with the people of Ireland to bring peace. This is a glorious time that we can at least be comforted by the fact that there is peace and that we can help to contribute to this lasting peace by bringing these individuals who will come to the United States temporarily and participate in a cultural exchange program to develop conflict resolution skill and return to Northern Ireland and contribute to the ongoing peace process.

I truly believe that this program offers a great opportunity to show others how Americans from many different religions live and work peacefully together. I understand and I see today that the Irish people want peace and they want to be together. I look forward to working with my colleagues on other exchange programs from other countries that are war torn, in particular having visited Africa in recent years, especially those countries suffering from civil unrest and terrorist attacks in Africa.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It is because of the gentleman from New York's hard work as well that this bill is possible this session. Again I appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for his good work. This bill has had 16 Democratic cosponsors and I am particularly pleased to be able to acknowledge the very hard work of my good friend the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) who was certainly one who pressed us forward into making sure this legislation would come to reality.

H.R. 4293, the "Irish Peace Process and Training Program Act of 1998" creates a new temporary visa program for citizens from war torn Northern Ireland and border counties of the Republic of Ireland. These individuals will come to the United States temporarily and participate in a cultural exchange to develop

conflict resolution skill and return to Northern Ireland and contribute to the on-going peace process.

I believe this program offers a great opportunity to show others how Americans from many different religions live and work peacefully. I look forward to working with my colleagues on other exchange programs from other countries that are war torn—especially those countries suffering from civil unrest and terrorist attacks in Africa.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Judiciary Committee Member CHUCK SCHUMER. It is because of Representative SCHUMER's hard work that this bill is possible this session. This bill has 16 Democratic cosponsors and I am pleased to yield time to the Gentleman from Massachusetts—an original cosponsor—Mr. NEAL.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time for the purposes of controlling the time to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), an original cosponsor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) will control the balance of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Houston for her general comments. They were generous indeed, both to me and to the originator of the bill the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague and friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the distinguished chairman of the Friends of Ireland here in the House, in support of this new non-immigrant, transitional visa initiative for Northern Ireland and the affected border areas. I am also pleased that we are joined tonight by several leaders of the Irish cause in the Congress. Besides the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) who incidentally may be making his very last appearance on the floor. We are going to sorely miss him amongst our Friends of Ireland and Irish Caucus. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), also a staunch supporter of the Irish cause. The gentleman from New York (Mr. KING); the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE); the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY). This is an important initiative, the non-immigrant transitional visa initiative for Northern Ireland and the affected border areas.

The future is bright for lasting peace and justice in that long troubled region. Despite the setbacks and serious problems surrounding the Orange Order marching season, the fire bomb deaths

of the Quinn boys, and the demented and senseless Omagh terrorist bombing, the way ahead can be and is bright, much brighter than the recent past. We in America must do all we can to help that region at this critical moment in Irish history. We must help bring about real change and a shared economic opportunity, new wealth and increased growth which gives the youth of the north of both traditions a bright future, a future which envisions working together for a new and better society, irrespective of one's tradition.

□ 2330

The Walsh D'Amato bill now before the Congress will help make that process of change a better and more productive one. It will provide for 4000 annual nonimmigrant visas for the disadvantaged in the region for up to three years duration. It is going to help that transition that is so sorely needed on the ground by providing hundreds with a chance for learning new job skills, training and cross community living experiences here in our own Nation, skills, training and tolerance that can be brought back to the new north of Ireland we all want to see grow and change for the better. It is ironic, but most fitting, that temporary transitional immigration to help the north of Ireland is one vehicle we can utilize to help bring about needed economic change for it was Irish immigration that helped to change and to bring about a better and more prosperous America.

I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the distinguished junior Senator from New York, Senator D'AMATO, for their tireless and outstanding leadership on moving forward expeditiously and building support for this important and new initiative, and I want to commend the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims for helping us bring this measure to the floor at this time.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4293, the Cultural and Training Program for Individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I think that this discussion this evening on the House floor speaks to the reach and the role of the United States as the mediator extraordinaire across the globe. I am particularly delighted tonight to stand in support of the good work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) who I take a lot of satisfaction from having worked with because I recruited him to this cause some years ago when he came to the House, and the people that are here tonight I also think can take enormous satisfaction from the Good Friday agreement because people like the gentleman from New York

(Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and others, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) were literally, I think, isolated voices on this floor time and again when we attempted to elevate this issue in the eyes of the American people.

We have advanced this cause long beyond what any of us might have imagined just a few years ago, and it is very, I think, satisfying tonight that the same actors are all here to participate in support of the Walsh initiative.

I cannot say enough good things about people of uncommon courage who stand with us tonight because it was these voices that literally changed this debate in America, and although there are many, I think, who can take again a bow at this time, it was the, I think, elevation of Bill Clinton to the White House that also had an enormous influence. There are many fathers and mothers of this success, but the people who are standing here tonight that are about to speak in support of the Walsh initiative I think were the primary factors in getting us to this day.

I also must thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH). He has always demonstrated a kind eye toward Irish immigrants with the notion that it has always been part of their legacy and heritage to demonstrate hard work time and again as they have taken their rightful role in American society, and I will have an opportunity, as we move back and forth, to acknowledge the other speakers that are here, Madam Speaker.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of this initiative by my good friend from New York (Mr. WALSH), and I want to join with the other speakers in commending him for the truly outstanding job he has done in pushing this legislation and advancing it so quickly because it is absolutely essential, I believe, to carry forward the Irish peace process and to continue the very significant role that the United States Government has played.

I also wanted to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for the tremendous cooperation we received from him and from all my colleagues here tonight. I want to join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) in commending the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON). This may well be his last night on the House floor, and no one has fought longer or harder for the cause of Irish freedom, and peace and justice than TOM MANTON. Certainly all of us are going to miss him, all of us who cherish his friendship and his sense of loyalty and dedication, and

certainly his career has been an outstanding one, and there has been no issue on which he has been more pronounced than the Irish peace process.

I also want to commend Senator D'AMATO who is going to be carrying this bill in the Senate for the work that he has done on this bill and so many other issues which involve the Irish peace process.

And that is what this is really about. It is obviously very important for the 12,000 people who are going to receive visas over the next 3 years. It is very important for families, it is very important for their communities, because these men and women who come here are going to learn skills, they are going to be able to go back to Ireland in several years, they are going to be able to alleviate and attack the terrible poverty that has wracked so many parts of northern Ireland.

Those of us who have been to the north have seen the terrible poverty in areas such as Valley Murphy and along the Falls Road and the Shanker Road, and other parts of the north of Ireland and the border counties which have been devastated by 30 years of fighting just in the north of them. So, this bill is very, very important as far as the individuals who are going to be directly affected.

But even more importantly, Madam Speaker, it sends a message to the people of Ireland, north and south, that the United States is going to continue its active role in the Irish peace process, that we are going to stay as active players.

As my good friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) pointed out, it was the President of the United States, and it was the United States Congress which had so much to do in bringing all the parties together, and those of us who were just in Ireland last month with the President on his mission realized the one thing the people wanted to see was assurance that the U.S. would stay involved. By measures such as this, it shows we are in this for the long haul, we are committed, we are going to stand firm, and we are going to stand with those who struggle for peace for those who want the process to work. We are not going to allow those who may intend to to disrupt the peace process, to impede it, to slow it down, to throw unnecessary preconditions in the way. We are going to stand with those who want the Good Friday agreement to work. We are committed to making it work, and that is what the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has done in moving this forward as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, working with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and all the people here tonight.

Madam Speaker, this is a tremendous step forward, and it is another great step by the United States and its commitment to a true and lasting peace for all the people of Ireland, north and south.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE), an individual who has been long active in the issue of Irish peace and has been a major player in this issue since he has been in the Congress.

(Mr. COYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COYNE. Madam Speaker, I just rise to submit a statement for the RECORD and to congratulate our departing colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) for all the work he done for the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4293, the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, which is designed to assist Northern Ireland in its difficult transition to a peacetime economy and a more stable society.

As its centerpiece, this legislation would create a temporary non-immigrant visa program targeted at providing disadvantaged, working-age individuals from Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland the opportunity to develop practical job training and work experience in the U.S. While living and working here, these individuals would also be exposed to training in conflict resolution and the experience of coexisting in a diverse, multicultural society. The program would provide 12,000 visas over a three year period for these designated individuals, with a maximum of 4000 such visas extended per year. These individuals would then return to Ireland with their newly acquired skills.

Madam Speaker, now that we have such an encouraging start, we should do all that we can to nurture the Irish peace process. While we sometimes take social and economic stability for granted in the U.S., such conditions have not existed for the entire lifetimes of many working-age adults in Northern Ireland. These conditions cannot develop overnight, and indeed, can only be created through the cooperation of thousands of Irish citizens working together to regenerate their communities. H.R. 4293 will provide these individuals with the necessary cultural and economic training to start the process of rebuilding a working, civil society. I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) who, as previously indicated, is retiring at the close of this Congress, and again I would say, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) have already stated and I am sure others will reiterate, there has not been a longer or more dedicated champion of the peace process in Ireland than has been the Congressman from Queens.

Mr. MANTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, and I thank him for his kind words and the kind words from others who have spoken here tonight on behalf of my upcoming retirement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4293, the Irish Peace Process Cultural Training Program. At the outset, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for introducing this important and timely legislation.

Although a handful of dissidents have recently tarnished the aura of peace in northern Ireland, the message sent earlier this year from people throughout Ireland was clear. They want peace, and they want it now. Today the situation in their country continues to be complex however. A movement toward a just and lasting peace is evident.

Congress has the opportunity to expand the advancement for peace by passing H.R. 4293 which would provide 12,000 visas over 3 years, each visa having a duration of 36 months. These temporary nonimmigrant visas would be made available to young individuals from the most volatile areas of northern Ireland in order to allow them the opportunity to partake in programs in the United States to further expand and develop their job skills. It is important to point out that these skills would be crucial to bringing economic opportunities to local communities in northern Ireland and thus further enhancing the peace process.

□ 2340

In addition, these individuals would have the opportunity to work in one of the most diverse and socially interactive environments in the world, and that is, the United States of America.

Rather than arming themselves with guns and expressing themselves through violence, these young bright individuals will have the opportunity to prepare themselves and their country for the 21st century with the skills they gain through the programs offered in this bill. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4293 illustrates the United States continuing strong commitment to bringing a just and lasting peace to the people of Northern Ireland.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation which already boasts strong bipartisan support from the Congressional Friends of Ireland, the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, as well as a number of Irish and Irish American groups and newspapers.

Madam Speaker, as the 20th century draws to a close, let us put the hate and violence Northern Ireland has witnessed behind us and welcome the 21st century as a peaceful and economically enhanced time for the people throughout all of Ireland.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, at this time I would include in the official RECORD comments of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern) who has been a great friend and champion of the Irish peace process as well.

Mr. MCGOVERN. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4293, A BILL TO PROVIDE CULTURAL AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING FOR THE DISADVANTAGED OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

I want to commend by colleagues—the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH] and the gentleman from my own Commonwealth of Massachusetts [Mr. NEAL]—for their leadership on Irish issues, and especially for drafting this bill that promotes peace and prosperity in Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, we all know of the long sectarian violence and tragic history of Northern Ireland. But today we are facing a new history in Northern Ireland—one built upon collaboration, consensus-building, and the people's choice for peace. H.R. 4293 will contribute to this process by involving those who have been exposed to such violence an opportunity to live and work in a multicultural society, a diverse society, the democratic society of the United States.

At the same time, these disadvantaged individuals from Ireland and Northern Ireland will also be gaining valuable work skills and experience so that they might participate and become partners in building a new and more prosperous Ireland.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 4293 and I salute the leadership of Congressman WALSH and Congressman NEAL.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), another great champion of the Irish peace process.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am the newest member of this caucus, and it has been a privilege for me to learn from all of my colleagues in the last 2 years.

I had the privilege of traveling with many of my colleagues a month ago over to Ireland to continue the peace talks. It was my first trip to Ireland, and I have to tell my colleagues what I saw and the faith of the people there was unbelievable. But it was up to that point where I had learned from the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), that I appreciate. Because going there and seeing what they have worked for so hard and to see that peace process come and see it in the faces of the people was unbelievable.

This bill that the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has put forward I support wholeheartedly, mainly because it is a common sense bill. It is a bill that will certainly continue the peace process, and that is what we have to do. This will give the opportunity for many young people to come over here to learn different skills and to go back home and bring those skills back, and that will only bring together again the tie of Irish Americans and certainly the Irish people in Ireland.

This bill will pass, this bill will do very well, and I am grateful for the privilege of working with all of my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4293, the Northern Ireland Visa for

Peace and Reconciliation. I want to commend Representative WALSH and all my colleagues on the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs for their hard work and commitment to the peace process in Ireland.

Like so many fellow Americans of Irish descent, I was thrilled when the Good Friday Agreement was signed earlier this year. This historic agreement, which was the result of the hard work by the people of Northern Ireland along with the dedication of the Irish, British and American governments, signaled a new day in Northern Ireland. After decades of turmoil, the people of Northern Ireland can now look towards a future with peace and justice.

But peace and justice do not come easy. True peace will take a lot of hard work and the continued commitment of all parties involved, including the United States. That is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4293. By creating a temporary non-immigrant visa program targeted at young men and women from disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland, this legislation will assist Northern Ireland in its transition to a peacetime economy. This Visa initiative is designed to afford individuals from Northern Ireland and the Border Counties the opportunity to develop valuable 21st century job skills and the experience of working in the world's greatest economy. After their visit, they would return home providing the crucial skill base needed to attract private investment in their local communities. This low-cost, low-risk, high-return investment in peace would also pay dividends by introducing its participants to the diverse, cooperative, and multicultural environment present in the United States.

Last month, I went to Ireland with a number of my colleagues. Traveling from city to city, both north and south of the border, one thing became clear to us—the people of Ireland want peace. And their dreams and aspirations are no different from those of ordinary Americans. The people of Northern Ireland want a safe and economically secure life, for themselves and their children. H.R. 4293 will help achieve that goal and I urge all my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I also would like to extend my deepest thanks to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for allowing us to move this bill as expeditiously as we have.

This whole process has been a remarkable achievement for all of us. In all of my experience here in the Congress in 10 years, I have never seen a more bipartisan or nonpartisan, bicameral, multi-branch of government-supported project as this Irish peace process. The gentleman from Texas allowing us to move ahead; Speaker GINGRICH who recently visited Northern Ireland and in support of the peace process in every word that he uttered. President Clinton, who has provided just remarkable leadership, truly the catalyst behind this process, along

with his colleagues Bertie Hearne, the Teshok of the Republic of Ireland and Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of England. My good friends on the Democratic side, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE), and my hat especially goes off to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MANTON) for the leadership that he has provided. He taught a lot of us about these issues.

On our side, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), not only a brave and vigilant spokesman for peace and justice in Ireland, but all over the world. The gentleman is willing to go anywhere and pay any price to make sure that people have their freedom and justice, and I thank him for his leadership.

Over the last few months the world has witnessed events in Northern Ireland symbolizing both the hope for its future and the tragedy of its past. The politics of the gun has been replaced with the politics of the ballot box. The majority of men and women on all sides of this conflict have given overwhelming support for the Good Friday agreement and stood firmly together in condemnation of violence and terror. The Visa for Peace legislation is aimed at helping those who are working for that new beginning, a new Ireland.

As chairman of the Friends of Ireland and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, I have personally been involved with this effort to help bring peace to Ireland. Back in May, the Speaker of the Irish Dail, Mr. Seamus Pattison, led a delegation to Washington for meetings between the newly established U.S.-Ireland Interparliamentary Group. During those meetings, the Irish representatives repeatedly raised the idea of a transitional visa program designed to support the implementation of the peace agreement. After a few weeks of research, consultation and negotiation, we, all of us, came to share their enthusiasm and introduced H.R. 4293.

The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act legislation creates 12,000 temporary, nonimmigrant work visas targeted at young men and women from disadvantaged areas from Northern Ireland in the border counties. It aims to assist the region in its transition to a peacetime economy. As a new low-cost, low-risk, high return investment in peace, this visa affords individuals an opportunity to obtain valuable job skills needed for the 21st century and the experience of working in the world's greatest economy. After their visit, they would return home prepared to provide the crucial skill needed to attract private investment to their local economies.

□ 2350

The program would provide up to 4,000 visas a year for 3 years, allowing the holder to live in the United States for up to but no more than 36 months.

It would identify disadvantaged areas within Northern Ireland and the border counties which require public and private sector activities to break the cycle of structural unemployment, retrain the long-term unemployed and out-of-work youth, and in doing so, assist in the regeneration of the economies in these locales.

It would encourage grass roots support for long-term peace and economic stability by providing a release valve for the tensions and disillusionment of communities in despair.

It would promote cross-community and cross-border initiatives which expose individuals from these disadvantaged areas to the business and social life of other communities.

These objectives can be achieved by a non-immigrant program targeted at young adults from both sides of the border, and on all sides of the sectarian divide.

Drawing on the experience and empirical evidence from the universally respected Project Children program, it is believed that exposing individuals who have been subjected to a wartorn sectarian environment to the diverse, cooperative, multicultural environment present in the United States can provide long-lasting social and economic benefits.

It is this interaction with alternative cultures within a neutral environment that will provide people from the targeted areas the sense of confidence and worth they will need to rebuild their economies and their lives.

Last month I accompanied both the Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), and President Clinton on their separate visits to Ireland and Northern Ireland. During those trips we were constantly thanked for the support that Congress has given to advancing the peace process, and reminded of the need to maintain our involvement.

As the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) spoke, we saw firsthand the benefits of public and private investment in the distressed areas that have suffered from the violence of the last 30 years.

American investment through the International Fund for Ireland has been successful in reaching out to all sections of the community, and has been very successful in promoting cross-border business activities.

The Northern Ireland Visa for Peace would leverage existing and future private investment. At a time of fiscal austerity and lack of support for foreign aid, our visa program would be a relatively inexpensive way to promote peace, reconciliation, and stability. America is also tired of sending its men and women overseas as peacekeepers. I believe it would be a lost opportunity not to try out a new, creative attempt at conflict resolution.

For those who are concerned that these temporary visas might encourage permanent emigration from Northern Ireland, I would respond that those

fears do not stand up to the current facts. I would like to submit for the RECORD an article from the New York Times detailing how thousands of Irish are returning home from the U.S.

The Irish government's Central Statistics Office documents that 6,600 Irish immigrants have returned from the United States this year, with a net migration to Ireland of over 15,000 individuals in the last 2 years. This figure will increase as the economy continues to thrive in the north, or begins to thrive in the north.

Our bill is an attempt to duplicate that success in Northern Ireland. The people of Northern Ireland will enjoy the same benefits as those in the south, if peace holds and the conditions for private investment are met. Our visa proposal is a response to the demands made by the U.S. Trade and Investment Conferences of 1995 and 1996. Those conferences called for ways to assist the economy in the north through on-the-job training of young adults with cross-community and cross-border participation.

In the past several years, we have seen 800 years of Irish history take a dramatic shift towards peace and justice for all. I believe that this Visa for Peace legislation will further cement that progress. I hope all Members will join me in supporting this low-cost, low-risk, high-return investment in support of peace in Northern Ireland.

I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and his staffers, Jim Wilon and George Fishman, for their efforts to bring this bill to the floor. I would like to thank John Mackey, of the staff of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BEN GILMAN), Mr. Mackey has been just an absolute soldier in this process, and my staff, John Simmons and Pat Togni, who have worked so hard to bring this to its fruition. I thank the committee for its indulgence.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following article:

LEAVING AMERICA—Ireland, New Promised Land

(By Mike Allen)

YONKERS, N.Y.—Between retrieving thrown juice cups and cleaning up crushed cookies, the moms in the mother-toddler group at the Irish Community Center here talk about home. But unlike generations of homesick Irish women before them, many of them aren't just talking. They're going.

With the Irish economy thriving and now an agreement for peace in the long-bloody North—resoundingly ratified in a referendum last weekend—the motherland's pull on its exiles in America seems more powerful than ever. Many young Irish adults are breaking with earlier generations of Irish immigrants who settled in the United States for good: The Irish Government reports that over the last two years, 13,000 more Irish moved back to Ireland from America than went the other way.

REVERSAL

That reversal breaks with previous decades of Irish immigration to the United States, one of the oldest, largest, most sustained and most culturally influential migration flows

of American history—reaching nearly a million in the 1850's after the Irish potato famine, but dwindling lately to just a few thousand a year.

For a few years now, the Irish have been celebrating the surprising return of their countrymen from England and Australia as well as America, a trend that the peace agreement seems sure to accelerate. Now the Irish in America, who once saw little choice but to come here, are confronted with a happy dilemma: choosing between this land of opportunity and a land more familiar to them that has been newly vested with promise.

To economists, Ireland is now "the Celtic tiger." Thanks largely to American and other foreign investments in high-tech manufacturing plants for computers, pharmaceuticals and other products, newly created jobs have brought unemployment in Ireland down to 9 percent from nearly 16 percent in 1993. Investors, in turn, are bullish largely because next year Ireland (unlike neighboring Britain) will adopt the European Union's unified currency, the euro. Participation in the euro imposes economic discipline on countries using it and is expected to reduce the cost of doing business within the European Union.

Jerry J. Sexton, a labor-market specialist for the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin, said most of those returning from the States are in their mid-20's to mid-30's, and usually have some education or skills.

Across the Atlantic, his assessment is affirmed in interviews with Irish immigrants. James Dalton, an Irishman who owns Dublin Construction Inc. in Woodside, Queens, said he typically employs 20 of his countrymen as carpenters or laborers—and typically one leaves for home every week. After spending the day refitting a pub in mahogany, two of his 20-year-old carpenters—both out of Ireland just two months—ordered a round of Guinness and confided their dream: saving enough money to start a construction business back home.

In many of the Irish bars that dot New York, similar stories are being told, some that sound much like the fantastic tales that envious dreamers in the Old World once told about America. Seamus Gillespie, a 44-year-old asbestos remover who was sharing a pint and a cigarette with a co-worker and his fiancée at another bar in Woodside, leaned in to give the news about the Irish economy. "They're not building houses," he said. "They're building mansions!"

WHOLE HOUSEHOLDS

Historians of American immigration say revolving-door migrations like this one are nothing new, despite popular myths about America as the promised land. But they note that the Irish exodus is unusual in that it seems to involve whole households (as opposed to men without families), making the departure of the Irish more noticeable.

Dr. Kerby A. Miller, a history professor at the University of Missouri who specializes in Irish immigration, calls the turnabout simply astonishing for a people long motivated by starvation and political and religious repression to forsake their homeland. In the past, he said, "Irish immigrants longed to return, at least sentimentally, but they realized it was impractical or impossible."

Among the factors motivating the new Irish returnees, Irish immigration counselors say, are frustrations and delays in winning American citizenship, given the United States' current anti-immigrant political climate. Lately, though, the peace agreement for the British province of Northern Ireland provides another incentive for those already weighing a decision to return.

Arriving at the Irish Community Center in Yonkers to pick up his wife and young son, Andrew J. Convery, a taxi driver from the Bronx, said the prospect of peace was a big factor in their decision to return. A Catholic from Northern Ireland, he came here six years ago in search of the American dream, and met his future wife, Kerry, a Catholic from Dublin, when he picked her up as a fare. Now they are moving back so their 1-year-old, Ciaran, can be raised the way they were. But without the bombs. "Before, there wasn't much to go back to," Mr. Convery said.

The Irish exodus raises as yet unanswerable questions about the subtler cultural effects on two countries that have long drawn on each other's richness. Several neighborhoods in Queens and the Bronx look like Potemkin Irish villages: Newsstands sell papers from each Irish county, convenience stores carry ox-tail soup mix and butcher shops offer grouse. Lately in the United States, Irish culture, once shunned by the upper crust, has enjoyed a broad revival. "Angela's Ashes," Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of growing up poor in Limerick (interestingly enough, after his family returned from America), has been on *The New York Times* Best-Seller List for 89 weeks. And in recent years, "Lord of the Dance," the choreographed extravaganza created by Michael Flatley, an Irish-American, has made Irish folk-dancing almost hip.

The Irish cultural vibrancy here could be diluted by Ireland's new drawing power, says Dr. Timothy J. Meagher, the director of the Center for Irish Studies at Catholic University in Washington.

"If you lose the immigrant base, it threatens the culture," he said.

The flow of Irish from the United States can be expected to increase as the Irish Government and business groups rev up the welcome wagon. Ireland's Department of Social Welfare, which earlier published "Thinking of Going to London?" and "Thinking of Going to the United States?" last year switched gears and put out "Thinking of Returning to Ireland?"—a guide to housing, pensions and workers' rights. A hopeful headline asked, "Home for Good?" A private group called Returned Emigrants was started last year and has grown to 180 members in three chapters; they gather to vent shared frustrations, including their experiences with the pokey Irish telephone service.

To other returnees, however, such flaws are quaint reflections of a more leisurely pace of life, which to them is one of Ireland's big draws. Pauline A. McGovern, who moved back to County Kerry in May with her husband, Brendan, and their son, said that with-in days of returning, her husband found work as a plumber. When they lived in Yonkers, he had to leave every workday at 6:45 A.M. to catch a train and then the subway for work in Manhattan. Now, he hops on his bike at 8:55 and rides 20 blocks to work—and comes home at noon for dinner. Their 3-year-old son, Ryan, sleeps three hours later. "I think it's in the air," Mrs. McGovern said.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would simply like to compliment the gentleman from New York again on his hard work on this bill, and congratulate him on its imminent passage.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Irish Peace Process Cultural & Training Program. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the leaders of Northern Ireland and England for achieving a much hoped for peace agreement many felt would

be out-of-reach. We are now seeing peace materialize before our eyes. I am glad to be alive to see these days—the beginning of the end of the troubles in Northern Ireland.

I am pleased that we are able to vote on this bill today. It is both timely and necessary. One of my proudest legislative achievements is the passage of the Diversity Visa which helped our countries reestablish a very important bond. Today's vote in favor of this bill will further cement this union. Both our nations will benefit greatly from this exchange of knowledge and people.

This bill will help Irish nationals learn valuable skills needed to strengthen local economies in Northern Ireland. My only disappointment with this negotiated version of the bill is that it grants a smaller number of visas than under the original bill. That bill, which I cosponsored, would have made available 50,000 visas. Nonetheless let me be clear that I fully support the goals of this legislation and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The people of Ireland have added to the cultural fabric of this country for many years. I have always believed that Irish immigrants have made a special and tangible contribution to America. Theirs is a story of hardship and hope, of trials and triumph. I ask my colleagues to remember that millions of Irish people chose us for their home away from home. They have come here to America for the promise of a better life. Many have helped build strong communities in the U.S.; others have chosen to return and take the example and experience of America back to their childhood homes.

Let us say welcome again to our brothers and sisters from the Emerald Isle and pledge to help them however we can in this time of peace and healing. Our bonds are strong and this bill will only help to make them stronger. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 4293, The Northern Ireland Visa for Peace and Reconciliation Act, I rise to urge my colleagues to support final passage of this bill and give further evidence of America's support for achieving economic justice and a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, I have held a series of hearings on the human rights abuses that persist in Northern Ireland. Regrettably, harassment of defense attorneys, lack of access to legal counsel, search and seizure abuses, sectarian use of plastic bullets and the prospect of collusion between loyalist paramilitary organizations and the police and security forces have all marked the history of British rule in Northern Ireland.

Along with these problems in the judiciary and in the enforcement of the rule of law, Northern Ireland has also suffered from discrimination against Catholics in the workplace. For instance, Catholic males are more than twice as likely as Protestant males to be unemployed.

H.R. 4293, like the International Fund for Ireland which we created in the 1980s and which we have funded consistently every year since, will help those in Northern Ireland who continue to struggle to find work, or who are still discriminated against because of their faith. H.R. 4293 creates a temporary working visa category for individuals from disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland so that they can come to the U.S., learn new job skills,

participate in cross-community training programs, and promote economic equality when they return to Ireland.

As drafted, H.R. 4293 is intended to help mitigate the social and economic problems that have contributed to civil unrest in Northern Ireland. By permitting young, unskilled people from the areas of civil strife to spend a brief time in the U.S. to learn a craft and experience the diversity of our country, we will help disadvantaged youth in nationalist and loyalist communities break the cycles of unemployment and distrust which have contributed greatly to the civil unrest in the region. The program will also enhance economic relations the trade between the U.S. and Northern Ireland.

When I was in Northern Ireland last year, I was amazed, saddened—and highly insulted—when a leading Unionist party official told me that Catholics remained unemployed in Northern Ireland not because of any subtle or blatant discrimination against them but rather because “they” are unskilled. He proceeded to reason, to my disbelief, that Catholics are good in the arts and entertainment field—i.e., singing and dancing—but are “wanting” in the math, sciences and other applications more fitting for finding work. I asked for data to back up his theory and needless to say I never got it.

It is this sort of “typecasting” and discrimination that can fuel civil strife. I am pleased that H.R. 4293 will go a long way in providing new employment experiences for the workers in both the Catholic and Protestant communities, give them opportunities to disprove the stereotypes they have supposed about each other over the years, and enable them to return home and provide the crucial skill base needed to attract more international private investment opportunities in their local economy.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4293, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

“A bill to establish a cultural training program for disadvantaged individuals to assist the Irish peace process.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that my office has been served

with a subpoena for documents issued by the Plymouth Superior Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the case of *Pert Dickie, et al. v. Kelly Regan, et al.*

The subpoena appears to relate to my official duties. I am currently consulting with the Office of General Counsel to determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FURSE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UPTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DUNCAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. ROUKEMA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY DEBATE, LET MEMBERS PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THEIR COUNTRY, NOT TO THEIR PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized until midnight.